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**To:** Brian Charron, Superintendent  
Board of Education

**From:** Jessica Washausen  
PK-5 Curriculum Coordinator

**Date:** September 15, 2025

**Subject:** September Board Report

### **September 2025 Board Report**

#### **Preschool for All**

The Preschool for All (PFA) team is pleased to report that Waterloo CUSD 5's PFA program has received the Gold Circle of Quality designation in ExceleRate Illinois. The Gold Circle of Quality represents the highest level of achievement in the state's quality recognition and improvement system for early childhood education programs. This prestigious designation signifies that the Preschool for All program meets or exceeds research-based quality standards in areas such as the learning environment, instructional quality, staff qualifications, and family engagement. Achieving the Gold Circle demonstrates our strong commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in early childhood education. It also reflects our dedication to providing young learners with a solid foundation for school readiness and long-term academic success.

In April 2025, WCUSD 5 received a Preschool for All monitoring visit from the assessment team at the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership at National Louis University. During the visit, the monitor reviewed and scored the PFA classroom, restrooms, and playground using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-3). The monitor also assessed the space and furnishings, language and literacy practices, learning activities, classroom interactions, and overall PFA program structure. Following the visit, we received a detailed report that highlighted both areas of effectiveness and opportunities for growth and improvement. In response, we developed a Continuous Quality Improvement Plan, which was submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education and will be monitored throughout the school year.

The success of WCUSD 5's PFA program is largely due to the strong foundation established in the classroom by PFA teacher Mrs. Carrie Rieken, along with classroom paraprofessionals Mrs. Hailey Allen and Mrs. Kathy Braun. While Mrs. Rieken is bringing her expertise to the kindergarten classroom this year, we are excited to continue the PFA program in Mrs. Jessica Billmeyer's classroom. The PFA team looks forward to continuing the level of excellence established by Mrs. Rieken.